

forest's campgrounds, hiking trails, ski resorts and other recreation activities attract millions of visits each year. The forest is also home to thousands of constituents in my district, who see the Forest Service as their largest neighbor and in many cases their landlord.

Although the national forest has seen a number of dramatic wildfires in the past decade, the Forest Service under Mr. Weeden has helped limit the losses of property and wildlife habitat in each case. The agency has increasingly worked with local officials to provide maximum recreation opportunities while protecting the natural beauty that attracts the visitors. As manager of a 440-person agency with a \$24 million budget, Mr. Weeden has helped guide the forest into the 21st Century as a verdant oasis in one of the largest urban areas in the world.

Even as he watched over the San Bernardino National Forest, Mr. Weeden in 1998 coordinated American aid to Mexico in response to the worst wildland fire season in that nation's history. He has since provided guidance and leadership to Mexico's fire-fighting, detection and prevention programs, as well as helping in the restoration of important natural lands.

Mr. Speaker, Paul Weeden retired last month to take a job in the private sector, although he and his wife Barbara remain residents of Highland, California, in my district. I ask you and my colleagues to Join me in thanking Mr. Weeden for his three decades of service, and wishing him well in his future endeavors.

#### BLOCKING AID TO HAITI

### HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 15, 2001*

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. Yet the U.S. government is blocking aid to Haiti in order to expand the influence of a single political party that is supported by less than four percent of the Haitian electorate.

Meanwhile, the people of Haiti are facing a serious humanitarian crisis. Haiti's per capita income is only \$460 per year. Four percent of the population is infected with the AIDS virus, and 163,000 children have been orphaned by AIDS. The infant mortality rate is over seven percent. For every 1000 infants born in Haiti, five women die in childbirth.

Not only has the U.S. suspended development assistance, the U.S. is also blocking loans from international financial institutions. U.S. policy has effectively prevented Haiti from receiving \$146 million in loans from the Inter-American Development Bank that were already approved by that institution's Board of Directors. These loans are desperately needed by the people of Haiti.

It is time for the United States to end this political impasse and restore bilateral and multilateral assistance to this impoverished democracy.

#### KLAMATH BASIN EMERGENCY OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE REFUND ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

### HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 13, 2001*

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, Nobody could have foreseen the devastating drought that has besieged Oregon over the past year. The lack of water has adversely effected agriculture, energy generation, recreation, and fish and wildlife habitat. The Klamath Basin in Southern Oregon and Northern California has suffered particular hardship through this drought. The snowpack and rainfall that supply the Basin with life-sustaining water are critical to the economic viability of the Basin, and have been significantly below normal. Because the federal government, through the Bureau of Reclamation, has encouraged the Basin's dependence with nearly a century of promised federal water allocation, this Congress has an obligation to take further steps to provide further funding for relief and mitigation.

This bill, H.R. 2828, will provide further assistance to the farmers of the Klamath Basin by reimbursing them for operations and maintenance costs. Farmers receiving federal water pay these fees to the government for upkeep of the infrastructure of the Klamath Project. Many of the farmers in the project did not receive federal water this year. Therefore, those farmers should not have to bear the cost of maintaining the federal infrastructure. Representative WALDEN has taken every precaution to ensure that this modest reimbursement is fair and equitable. Only irrigation districts receiving severely limited water supplies will be reimbursed, and districts who have already been reimbursed by California will not be eligible for the funds in this bill.

I am pleased to be working with Mr. WALDEN, and many members of the Oregon and California delegations, to find reasonable short and long term solutions to the situation in the Basin. This bill will provide farmers in the Basin with much needed economic assistance by simply refunding their O&M costs. Passing this bill is fair, and the right thing to do for the farmers in the Klamath Basin. I urge adoption of H.R. 2828, the Klamath Basin Emergency Operation and Maintenance Refund Act of 2001.

#### IN HONOR OF LT. COMMANDER ERIC CRANFORD

### HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 15, 2001*

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lt. Commander Eric Cranford, who lost his life in service to our nation on September 11th. A Navy rescue pilot, Lt. Commander Cranford knew danger, he knew sacrifice—and courage could have been his middle name. If Eric had not been in the Pentagon that fateful morning, or if his side of the building had not been hit, you can bet he would have sacrificed his own safety, risking his own life to rescue others. He had done it

before. It was his job. And we pay our respects to him, his wife Emily Cozort Cranford and his entire family. I want to personally salute my friend and Emily's Uncle Jack Cozort who led efforts to establish a scholarship at North Carolina State University, Eric and Emily's alma mater, for Burke County students in Eric's name.

Earlier this week, our nation observed Veterans Day in remembrance and in gratitude of the many men and women like Lt. Commander Cranford have served our nation so bravely in the United States military. Veterans have always represented what is best about our great nation, From the American Revolution's Minutemen to today's soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines, American men and women have dedicated themselves to the preservation of liberty and democracy throughout the history of our country.

Those in uniform—past and present—are the defenders of the American values that have made our nation strong and kept us free. I commend each and every one of them for their brave service to America. This Veterans Day, we gathered with heavy hearts and troubled minds. We are at war. It is a war Eric Cranford and those who lost their lives at the Pentagon on September 11th would have been ready to fight. Today, we face the greatest challenge to our freedom since World War II. September 11 will forever be remembered as a day that evil visited our great nation as never before. Four commercial planes were transformed into missiles and aimed at buildings that define our nation, and symbolize our freedom and values. These attacks resulted in a loss of life on a scale not seen in our country since the Civil War.

The terrorists who committed these terrible acts on completely innocent men, women and children are not just criminals. They are mortal enemies of the United States of America. But these cowards cannot hide forever. We must pursue them to the ends of the earth to ensure that international terrorists can never again threaten innocent Americans.

Once again, we have called on our men and women in uniform to defend those values we hold so dear. President Bush has said that this campaign will not be simple, it will not be quick, and it will not be without casualties. But we will show the world that any enemy who chooses to test the resolve of the United States and its allies will face the collective might of our military. I have full confidence in our Commander in Chief and our armed forces.

We will win this war because we cannot afford to fail. We will win this war for Eric Cranford and the thousands who lost their lives on September 11. We will win it for Emily, and those who were left behind to mourn. We will win it because we are a good and just nation and because evil must not be allowed to flourish anywhere in this world. We must show these cowards that their efforts to terrorize us will not succeed.

As we pray for those fighting to avenge the terrible events of September 11, let us not forget those who came before them. Their great strength and sacrifice during the conflicts of the Twentieth Century moved heaven and earth, and showed the world that the American warrior is the most potent force on the face of the earth. Millions of men and women served bravely in the first and second World